(b) The Union Budget for 2000-2001 has underscored the importance of infrastructure for sustained economic growth. The Budget also referred to substantial progress made in encouraging private infrastructure service providers and in establishing independent regulatory frameworks in most infrastructure sectors.

(c) The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Non-payment of interest on IT refunds

3152. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax authorities issuing refund orders make payment of interest as admissible under the rules only in a few cases and ignore the majority of tax payers who are also entitled to interest in their refunds;

(b) the rationale behind this discriminatory treatment;

(c) the number of refund orders issued by Delhi I.T. authorities during the last three years, year-wise and circle-wise alongwith, the number out of them where interest as due was paid and of those on which interest was not paid, year-wise and circle-wise; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against officials responsible for anti-tax payer policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Every care is taken to ensure that interest as admissible under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 is granted while issuing refunds. However, under the provisions of law, no interest is granted where the amount of refund arising out of excess tax deducted at source or advance tax is less than 10% of tax as determined on regular assessment. In Delhi region, refunds of Rs. 1284 crore, Rs. 1670 crore and Rs. 1824 crore have been issued in financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, respectively. No separate circle-wise statistics of number of cases involving interest on refund is maintained in Delhi region.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.